

12 MARS 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: JAMES T. NEWSOM
BERNIE O'NEILL
LEANN ZIMMERMAN
CHARLES R. WALL
STEVEN C. PARRISH

FROM: DONALD K. HOEL

DATE: MARCH 8, 1990

RE: OFSP BROCHURE - SWITZERLAND

On March 7, 1990 I received a telephone call from Drs. Marcovitch and Reif. Dr. Gaisch was on "holiday" in Vienna recuperating from a rather serious automobile accident involving his wife and him.

As I understood the situation, Dr/Prof. Atterslander had recently approached some people at the Swiss Federal Health Office concerning the rather unsatisfactory meeting that was held at their offices on January 17, 1990 (copy of Dr. Gaisch's report on said meeting is attached). Dr. Atterslander apparently expressed dissatisfaction with the meeting and asked if the Swiss officials would agree to "third parties" reviewing the brochure; Dr. Atterslander's responsive critical paper, and in effect, serving as a referee. According to what I was told, the Swiss officials showed some inclination to agree to such a procedure and asked Dr. Atterslander to submit names. Again, according to my information, Dr. Atterslander suggested the name of Dr. Karl Uberla. Drs. Marcovitch and Reif wanted to know if we knew of any French speaking epidemiologists or statisticians. Upon further discussion, they broadened their request to any good statistician or epidemiologist who could assist in the "refereeing".

I told them that I did not want to suggest anyone that we had not worked with in the past and were sure of their position. Among the names I suggested were the follows:-

1. Dr. Theodore Sterling
2. Dr. Alvin Feinstein
3. Dr. Marvin Kastenbaum

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4. Dr. Skrabanek

We briefly discussed each of the above individuals and their background, connection with the Industry etc.

I believe that Dr. Atterslander will meet with the Swiss officials next week and suggest that he has some names of possible referees but has not had the opportunity to contact any of them and could not represent that they would be willing to undertake the task.

Drs. Marcovitch and Reif will discuss this matter further with Dr. Gaisch upon his return to Neuchatel and will be back in touch with us when more information is known.

Apparently Dr. Atterslander undertook this "refereeing" idea on his own without any prior consultation with the people in Neuchatel.

Any comments, observations or suggestions would be appreciated.

DKH
Encl.

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